

Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006

SENATE FINANCE & CLAIMS

Exhibit No. 1

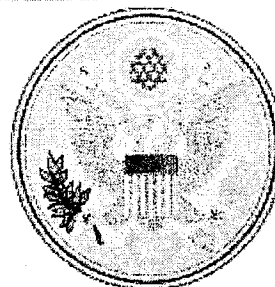
Date 3-9-09

Bill No. SB 241

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006** (S. 2590)^[2] is an Act of Congress that requires the full disclosure to the public of all entities or organizations receiving federal funds beginning in fiscal year (FY) 2007. The website USAspending.gov opened in December 2007 as a result of the act, and is maintained by the Office of Management and Budget. The Congressional Budget Office estimates S. 2590 will cost \$15 million over its authorized time period of 2007–2011.^[3]

The bill was introduced by Senator Tom Coburn, for himself and Senators Barack Obama, Tom Carper and John McCain on April 6, 2006.^[1] After two "secret holds" placed by Senators Ted Stevens, a Republican, and Robert Byrd, a Democrat were revealed and removed^{[4][5]}, it was passed unanimously in the Senate on September 7, 2006 and by the House on September 13, 2006. The bill was signed into law by President George W. Bush on September 26, 2006.^[6]



Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006

Full title A bill to require full disclosure of all entities and organizations receiving Federal funds.

Acronym / colloquial name Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006

Citations

Codification

Legislative history

- **Introduced in the United States Senate as S. 2590 by Tom Coburn, Barack Obama, Tom Carper, and John McCain** ^[1] on April 6, 2006
- **Committee consideration by:** Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, and International Security
- **Passed the Senate on September 7, 2006** (Unanimously approved)
- **Passed the House on September 13, 2006** (Passed by voice vote)

- **Signed into law by President Bush on September 26, 2006**

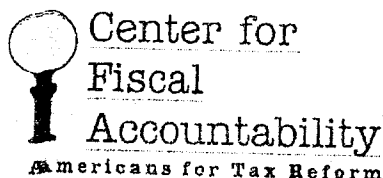
Major amendments

On June 3, 2008, Senator Obama, along with Senators Carper, Coburn and McCain, introduced follow-up legislation: *Strengthening Transparency and Accountability in Federal Spending Act of 2008*.^[7]

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Transparency. Accountability. Limited Government.

TX Comptroller Combs on the Benefits of Transparency Not Only For Taxpayers, But Also for Agencies

Thursday, December 4, 2008 1:05 PM

Texas State Comptroller Susan Combs held a press conference discussing her government transparency initiatives yesterday. Take a look at Open Book Texas, which not only provides access to her spending transparency portal, but also to Texas Transparency Check-Up with lots of useful tips and links on transparency, Texas Smart Buy, a new online ordering system for agencies, and the Single Set of Books Initiative, an effort to get to a uniform financial accounting system.

In her speech, Comptroller Combs made an excellent case (talking from her own experience) for the usefulness of transparency not only from a taxpayers perspective, but also from an agency point of view:

"But besides the public having access to information, we discovered our emphasis on transparency had internal benefits in that it made our own operations transparent to us. This provided access to such detailed, centralized and easily navigable information about our budget and expenditures, which allowed us to identify redundancies, inefficiencies and other areas for improvement with a clarity that was simply not possible before."

*As a result, we have already identified **\$8.7 million** of efficiencies and savings since I took office — and that number is still growing. Of these savings, **\$4.8 million** have already been realized, with an additional **\$3.8 million** expected in the coming year. Here are just a couple of examples:*

- **Toner:** A closer look at our contracts for toner cartridges revealed a simpler and smarter way to consolidate purchases through one contract, rather than through multiple vendors. Getting a discount for volume saved us more than **20 percent**, for a total of **\$73,000** on that one item.
- **P.O. Boxes:** The mail sorter machine used by our agency needed to be replaced after many years of use. Rather than spending around **\$328,000** on a new mail sorter, including maintenance, we decided to purchase additional P.O. Boxes for less than **\$10,000** and let the existing automated machines at the Postal Service do the sorting for us.

The bottom line is because of transparency, we were better able to see where and how we spend money and where and how to save it."

That should be a powerful argument to sway those skeptics in administrations that have yet to implement transparency.

Two cheers for Texas transparency!

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